

Patent
PM Docket No. PM 2120
Attorney Docket No. 021238-556

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A dryer for an electrically heated smoking device, comprising:
a heater adapted to fit within a cigarette receiving portion of said smoking device, said heater projecting from a base portion of said dryer,
5 said base portion having an interface surface on which said smoking device rests when said heater is positioned within said cigarette receiving portion of said smoking device.

- 10 2. The dryer according to claim 1, wherein said base portion includes at least one air passageway in communication between said cigarette receiving portion and surrounding ambient air when said smoking device is resting on said interface surface.

- 15 3. The dryer according to claim 2, wherein said interface surface includes a key for positioning said smoking device relative to said dryer.

4. The dryer according to claim 3, wherein said key comprises a plurality of pin connector holes adapted to receive electrical connector pins on said smoking device.

5. The dryer according to claim 1, wherein said heater comprises a post of insulating material with electrically resistive wire wrapped around the post.

- 20 6. The dryer according to claim 5, wherein said post is made of a ceramic material.

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7. The dryer according to claim 1, wherein said interface surface comprises slots formed in said interface surface to provide air passageways communicating with said cigarette receiving portion and surrounding ambient air.

5 8. The dryer according to claim 7, wherein said slots extend from said heater along said interface surface radially outward to an outer periphery of said base portion of said dryer.

9. The dryer according to claim 8, wherein said slots extend along said outer periphery of said base portion in an axial direction from said interface surface.

10 10. A method of cleaning a smoking device comprising:
introducing a cleaning solution within a cigarette receiving cavity of said smoking device,
15 placing said smoking device on a dryer wherein said dryer comprises a base portion and a heater adapted to fit within said cigarette receiving cavity, said base portion having an interface surface on which said smoking device rests when said heater is positioned within said cigarette receiving cavity; and
supplying electrical current to said heater to increase the temperature of said heater and thereby increase the rate at which the cleaning solution evaporates from within said cavity.

20 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein air flows through at least one air passageway defined in said base portion and communicating between said cavity and ambient air surrounding said base portion.

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12. The method according to claim 10, wherein said interface surface includes a key adapted to position said smoking device relative to said base portion of said dryer.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein said key comprises a plurality of pin connector holes in said interface surface, and placing said smoking device on said base portion with electrical connector pins of said smoking device mating with said pin connector holes.

14. The method according to claim 10, wherein said heater comprises a post of insulating material with electrically resistive wire wrapped around the post, and supplying direct current to said resistive wire to generate heat within said cigarette receiving cavity.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein electrical power is provided to said resistive wire to generate heat within said cavity to a temperature above 100° C.